The Criminal System Behind the Crime Bill Hype

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South Africa’s Constitutional Hoax

Chicago: Voices in the Lockdown Territories

How Revolutionary China Got Rid of Drugs
The great revolutionary Mao Tsetung said:

"History shows that wars are divided into two kinds, just and unjust. All wars that are progressive are just, and all wars that impede progress are unjust. We Communists oppose all unjust wars that impede progress, but we do not oppose progressive, just wars. Not only do we Communists not oppose just wars, we actively participate in them."

Mao Tsetung, from "On Protracted War," May 1938

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Three Main Points

by Bob Avakian
Chairman of the RCP, USA

What do people in the Revolutionary Communist Party want people to learn from all that is exposed and revealed in this newspaper? Mainly, three things:

1) The whole system we now live under is based on exploitation—here and all over the world. It is completely worthless and no basic change for the better can come about until this system is overthrown.

2) Many different groups will protest and rebel against things this system does, and these protests and rebellions should be supported and strengthened. Yet it is only those with nothing to lose but their chains who can be the backbone of a struggle to actually overthrow the system and create a new system that will put an end to exploitation and help pave the way to a whole new world.

3) Such a revolutionary struggle is possible. There is a political Party that can lead such a struggle, a political Party that speaks and acts for those with nothing to lose but their chains: The Revolutionary Communist Party, USA.

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The Criminal System Behind the Crime Bill Hype

Official America is whipping up a reactionary "anti-crime hysteria." The Senate and the House of Representatives each just passed versions of a big police bill. With Clinton's blessing, they will be spending billions on more cops and more prisons. The two versions will be merged in a joint congressional committee. Senator Joe Biden remarked on the mood among government politicians these days: "If someone came to the floor and said we should barbwire the ankles of anyone who jaywalks, I think it would pass."

In New York's recent elections, the reactionary candidate Rudolf Giuliani openly rallied a "white backlash" against the city's oppressed communities. Giuliani denounced previous handling of inner-city rebellions as too soft and too slow. He called homeless panhandlers "squeaky-petes," and he branded whole communities (like Washington Heights) as criminal territories.

A military occupation of housing projects in Puerto Rico is being watched as a model program for inner cities in the United States. For five months, the National Guard has been occupying 23 housing projects on the island. The people have been fired by 12-foot-high barbed wire and watched by 24-hour armed patrols in camouflage. At night, the projects have been raided by attack forces involving as many as 500 armed soldiers and police. Last month, Washington, DC's Mayor Sharon Pratt Kelly called for a similar National Guard occupation of the capital's ghetto districts. Though this request was turned down by the White House, the open military occupation of inner cities is now a topic of high-level discussion.

Meanwhile, along the U.S.-Mexican border, "Operation Blockade" has been launched, stepping up the repression and brutalization of immigrants. And the U.S. media has been portraying this as one giant "anti-crime" operation. The nightly TV news helps whip up anti-crime/anti-immigrant hysteria by interviewing wealthy white Texans who say they sleep better at night knowing Clinton's Border police will prevent immigrants from coming across the border to "commit burglary and murder."

The system's pollsters announce a "dramatic increase in public concern over crime." This is reported as mass support for a new police measure. In fact there is no evidence of any recent increase in crime, but there is lots of evidence of an immense official media campaign focused on "guns in the schools," "children with assault weapons," "inner-city gang violence," and "senseless street crime."

Two years ago the official media focused attention on Somalia to create public opinion for an invasion in East Africa. Now the same media has been working overtime to create public opinion for a police invasion of the inner city. The system tells people what to think, and then reports their thoughts as a "demand of the people."

More than ever before, a special effort is being made to make this latest "war on crime" seem like a demand from the people. And at present, this would work. Black "spokesmen" and inner-city political hacks have been organized to call for all kinds of intensified crackdowns.

The Ruling Class Line on Crime: Blame the People, Jail the People

The Clinton Crime Bill

On November 19 the Senate passed (95-4) a broad $25.2 billion anti-crime package. The heart of this bill is Police and Punishment. Fully $8.8 billion (a third of the bill's money) will be spent to put 100,000 new cops on the force over the next five years. Another $3 billion will be used to help states construct 10 new regional prisons. And an additional $5 billion is intended for "boot camps" for arrested youths.

Clinton says that by getting this bill passed, he will be fulfilling a major "campaign promise." The plan is to pay for this through "federal work reduction"—in other words, the Senate plans to cut the number of federal workers and hike up the number of cops.

Meanwhile, the House of Representatives passed a somewhat different bill that, for example, would add 50,000 new cops. The difference between these two bills will be reconciled in a Senate-House conference committee.

Here are the main provisions of the Senate bill:

- It bans the manufacture, sale and possession of 19 semiautomatic assault weapons and clips designed to feed more than 10 rounds of ammunition. Specifically targeted weapons which the government claims are popular among ghetto youth.
- It makes being a member of a "street gang" a federal crime. It uses the logic of "anti-conspiracy laws" and criminalizes even "conspiring to join a criminal street gang." It establishes a federal death penalty for drive-by shootings. And it means that the FBI and other federal agencies will be sent into many more ghettos, to set up offices, conduct investigations, set up networks of informers, etc.
- It expands the federal death penalty to cover 52 offenses, including killing federal cops and FBI agents.
- It authorizes $1.00 billion in grants to schools for metal detectors and other security measures.
- It authorizes $40 million to develop a national "criminal background check." Under the cover of "protecting children, the elderly and the disabled" by providing a database of offenders—this system is a major step toward setting up a police-state computer system. This is happening just as Janet Reno has dedicated a "National Drug Intelligence Center" in Johnstonstown, PA, which will set up a mega-computer network combining the information gathered by 19 different drug agencies.
- The six-fold increase in federal subsidy of local police brings the federal government into control of local police—another step toward central federal control of national policing policy.

Continued on page 12
"The battle in Peru is our battle. For the poor and all oppressed in the U.S., this is our struggle in Peru. It has been a growing source of worldwide hope and inspiration since the masses of Peru and their people's war burst on the scene and began delivering hard blows to our common enemy."

From the statement by the Central Committee, Revolutionary Communist Party, USA, September 25, 1992

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Move Heaven and Earth to Defend the Life of Chairman Gonzalo!

Victory to the People's War in Peru!

Yankee Go Home!

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As of November 26, Chairman Gonzalo (Abimael Guzman) has been held in isolation for...

1 YEAR 46 DAYS

In October 1992, Chairman Gonzalo—leader of the Maoist Communist Party of Peru—was sentenced to life imprisonment by hooded military judges of the U.S.-backed regime in Peru. The fascist regime in Peru is holding this revolutionary leader of the Peruvian people under very brutal conditions in an underground concrete dungeon at a naval base. He is being denied visits by lawyers, doctors and relatives and deprived of proper medical care and reading materials. Peru's President Fujimori has publicly threatened to execute Chairman Gonzalo and boasted of applying psychological torture on him. And a new Constitution, made official this October, reinstates the death penalty which could be used against Chairman Gonzalo and other revolutionary prisoners. The Peruvian regime must be prevented from killing Chairman Gonzalo through the death penalty or by other means.

Recently, Fujimori claimed that Chairman Gonzalo has made a call for negotiations from prison. In this situation, what possible excuse can Fujimori now offer for continuing to deny Comrade Gonzalo independent contact with lawyers, doctors and friendly and neutral visitors from outside the prison in a way that meets the basic international standards for treatment of political prisoners and prisoners of war? It is vitally important for people in Peru and around the world to hear what Chairman Gonzalo's views are from Chairman Gonzalo himself—directly and unimpeded. This heightens the urgency of the fight to create an international political climate which compels the Peruvian government to grant access to Comrade Gonzalo by his legal representatives and other friends who can meet and talk directly with him.
South Africa's Constitutional Hoax

On November 18 a new constitution was announced in South Africa. A number of different forces are included in the group of negotiators that came up with the constitution—but the two key negotiators are the white-minority government headed by F.W. de Klerk and the African National Congress led by Nelson Mandela.

The white settler-colonialists, backed by world powers, have oppressed black people in South Africa (Azania) for centuries and denied them any political rights. After World War II South Africa became a blatant, all-sided system of racism and national oppression called "apartheid." Now the new constitution—scheduled to go into effect after elections next April—supposedly gives black people "equal rights" with whites.

Will this constitution finally end the subjugation of black people in South Africa? Will it finally bring a just system to South Africa? The short and basic answer is: NO.

The U.S. and other world powers immediately gave high praise to the constitution as a "historic" document that marks a "victory for democracy" in South Africa. These are the very same powers who have profited enormously from the enslavement of the Azanian people. They have backed the apartheid regime as a key enemy for their imperialist interests in Africa. The fact that these powers are enthusiastic endorsers of the agreement between de Klerk and Mandela should be enough to raise serious questions in the minds of all those who want to see the masses of Azanians free of their chains of oppression.

Oppressed people here in the U.S. know well from our own experience that "rights" written down on pieces of paper or the ability to vote do not put an end to exploitation and suffering. The key question is: Who has power—who controls the power to decide how the politics and economy of society is organized? The new constitution in South Africa does not bring about a fundamental change in power relations. The masses of oppressed Azanians are still without real political power.

Guarantees for White Rights

To start off, the new constitution contains many guarantees about the rights of "minorities"—in other words the whites who lend de Klerk and the majority black population. White political parties are guaranteed a seat in the Cabinet for the first five years. The rights and pensions of white soldiers and government workers will be protected. The white settler-colonialists in South Africa have built up their political power with the help of bloody repression. In fact, the U.S. ruling elite has always backed the Afrikaner regime because it guarantees that a guaranteed "equal rights" for these oppressors means it can only mean preserving privileges enjoyed by the privileged classes and the Azanian masses who are on the bottom.

Land Question

A central issue for the liberation of Azanian people is the question of land. Black people are left with the poorest, most unproductive land—and millions have been forced off their land by the apartheid military. There can be no real liberation for black people in South Africa until there is a radical change in this situation.

The new constitution supposedly gives the Azanians who were moved off their land the right to claim back their land or lost property. According to the New York Times, the state would be obliged to buy the land off, if a claims court decided that the current landholder also had a legitimate claim, to give the former occupant a cash payment. But consider how things worked out in Zimbabwe, a country to the northeast of South Africa. In 1979 an agreement worked out under British and U.S. guidance replaced the racist white government of Ian Smith with the black-led Mugabe government. Before the agreement, 50 percent of the farmland was reserved for whites who made up only a tiny part of the population. This land was supposed to be redistributed to black peasant families with little or no land. But most whites refused to sell their land since they did quite well on their commercial farms and plantations. Ten years after the agreement, whites still owned at least half the farmland in Zimbabwe. Less than seven percent of the land was occupied by peasant-farmers who had been given new land.

Compare this situation with what happened when Marxist revolution is in effect in countries where the land question is on the agenda. In the revolutionary base areas of Peru's countryside, land that used to be monopolized by reactionary landlords is divided among the poor Indian peasants. This is a key part of the new power that the oppressed are winning in Peru through the people's war led by the Communist Party of Peru.

Political Power Grows Out of the Barrel of a Gun

Redistribution of land to the oppressed people and other sweeping economic and political changes in society can only be brought about if the masses have political power. And in MacTiett's words, "Political power grows out of the barrel of a gun." The oppressors in South Africa have kept their power through the use of their brutal army and police. Fundamental changes that are in the interests of the masses of black people can only come about if the reactionary armed force and state power is defeated and replaced by the revolutionary armed force of the people. But that is not what is happening in South Africa.

The new constitution not only preserves the South African government's military and police—it strengthens them. The ANC officially renounced armed struggle some time ago; and Mandela has called on the masses to lay down their weapons. De Klerk and Mandela have agreed that any armed forces that ANC or other parties possess should now be put under the control of the existing South African military. The constitution creates new regional armed forces controlled by the provincial governments.

The ANC might argue that the apartheid military will be "reformed." But the ANC has stated that a size armed force is a way to keep the masses under control. In the last couple of years, the ANC has asked the de Klerk regime to send troops and police into the townships to disarm the masses and root out opposition. Mozambican white Nazi groups are aiming themselves to the teeth, and the reactionary Inkatha group led by Chief Buthelezi is attacking the people.

Capitalist Reforms or Revolution?

The U.S. imperialists used to consider South Africa one of the "safer" and most profitable places in the world to invest. But the great upsurge of revolution in the mid-1980's shook the imperialist system to its foundations and threatened the imperialist system as a whole. Millions of people around the world became involved in the anti-apartheid movement and denounced the support of the U.S. and other Western governments for the South African regime.

The rulers of the U.S. and their kind in other countries were desperate to save the oppressive system in South Africa which occupies a very important place in their worldwide system of exploitation. So they pushed for some reforms in the blatantly racist political system. These reforms only promise a different set of oppressors. The nothing-to-lose youth and the oppressed masses of black youth and improving skill levels of black workers—will lead to new, revolutionary relations between the oppressors and the oppressed.

The constitution and other agreements between de Klerk and Mandela are part of such capitalist reforms in South Africa.

These reforms might allow small sections of Azanians to "share the wealth"—but this wealth is founded on the exploitation and oppression of the masses of black people. The nothing-to-lose youth and the oppressed masses can only come about if the reactionary armed forces are defeated and replaced by the revolutionary armed forces of the people. But that is not what is happening in South Africa.

In the late 1980's many Fortune 500 corporations took advantage of the direct presence in South Africa (although many continued to suck out profits through subsidiary companies and other means). Now these corporations are starting to come back, especially after the ANC once again and use South Africa as a "launching pad" for penetration into other parts of Africa. Other foreign powers are holding back—waiting for assurances that the new government will be "stable" enough to keep the masses down and make it safe for capitalist investment.

More than ever, the Azanian people need revolution to win political power and liberate themselves. Mao Tsetung's words are very relevant to the situation in South Africa: "Revolutions and revolutionary war are inevitable in the world, and without it it is impossible to accomplish any leap in social development and to overthrow the reactionary ruling classes and therefore impossible for the people to win political power."
Chicago: Voices in the Lockdown Territories

Hard Life on the

In the Summer of 1992, immediately following the Bulls victory in the NBA finals, rebellions and outbreaks occurred in over 100 Chicago communities. This last summer, in the days leading up to the Bulls “threepeat,” the authorities did everything they could to prevent another rebellious outbreak. The city stationed thousands of police, issued tear and pepper gas and put a clampdown on a number of areas across the city—all at a cost of over $3 million. But as reported previously in the RW (#713, #719, #722, #723), all this didn’t prevent many people, especially the youth, in the oppressed communities from “expressing themselves” that night. This was true at the Ida B. Wells Homes on the south side of Chicago.

The Ida B. Wells projects are in an area with some of the highest concentrations of poverty in the city. And the Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) has put these projects under daily “lockdown” conditions. The area is constantly patrolled by brutal and corrupt CHA police, and meanwhile the city refuses to do anything to improve the most horrible living conditions. Just recently, in one of these high-rises, almost all of the families had to be evacuated because the building had deteriorated so badly.

Recently the RW talked to people in this community about what happened “threepeat” night and what it’s like to live in these occupied territories.

"...When I came out of my house, there was a lot of people outside going nuts. Because of the “threepeat” everybody was just excited and everything. People was going to try to roast the store, but they couldn’t get to it because it was under heavy guard by the policemen, with the riot helmets on and everything.”

Marjorie and her husband David are standing alongside the fence, on the southwest corner of Ida B. Wells. Just south across the street is Atlantic Foods. On the corner diagonally across is another store, Vegas. Even though it’s getting cold outside, both were up for talking with the RW about what happened here the night of the “threepeat.” They have lived in this housing project for a long time. David, who’s 33 years old and has worked as a messenger, has lived here his whole life. Marjorie, who’s 24 years old, takes care of her kids and works.

Like many other residents, David and Marjorie headed outside after the game. The cops had showed up about an hour and a half before the game ended. They had marched around Atlantic Foods, one of the two stores at the intersection, and were ready for battle. Marjorie described their appearance: “The policemen that day were dressed in riot gear. They had their shields and they claim they were armed with mace, cause they claimed they weren’t gonna use no kind of firepower. And the clubs, that was it. But they were dressed for a riot.”

Bottles began to fly,...at police and at police cars coming down the street. Some neighborhood stores were broken into and when police reinforcements showed up the whole situation came to a boil.

Someone was running in the alley. He had no gun, no weapon, at best only “armed” with some liquor he lifted from the store. “He was running out the store and a cop told him to stop, or freeze or something. He didn’t. So he kept running, he shot him, and they shot bowling pins through the alley. And so they shot him, they shot him in the leg.” According to Marjorie, the story during the shooting were detectives and she said she also saw some of them jump out of a car and began beating another man who had run by them.

Marjorie said after the cops shot this one man people got really angry. Then while the police were converging on one store, another situation was going on up near Lake Meadows shopping center, four blocks north. According to Marjorie, a whole pack of people ran towards the stores where they heard a boy had got shot in the head. The young boy was Michael Lowery Jr. and a lot of people think it was the police who gunned him down. Marjorie thinks the police considered the child’s life not important next to protecting the stores. “He’s just a child. And then all of a sudden why they gonna start shooting in a crowd of people...I don’t think they had a right to shoot, they should have shot in the air for a warning maybe, but they shouldn’t have shot directly in no crowd.

When word came back from 35th about what had happened, people’s anger at the police got even more intense. “They were throwing a lot of bottles at the police. A police car, a state police rolled by here. They threw so many bottles that the car skidded and almost flipped over. It was a State Police car which was just driving down the street. So they were really mad. So all the police, or any authority figure as far as the police are concerned, people was throwing a lot of bottles.”

The coverage of all this in the media was skimpy. A mention of a cop being shot in the area. A car that got burned on the corner made the front page of the Black newspaper, the Chicago Defender. But there was NO mention of the young man shot by police in the food store. Articles called the youth “bands of criminals”

Youth Tell the RW

Why We

Threepeat night on the South Side: The parking lot of the Lake Meadows shopping center had cops running from one end to another. There were German Shepherds, Rottweilers, and station wagons with more dogs. An angry crowd of youth had gathered. A young boy was running and then a shot rang out.

The word on the street is that the finger on the trigger belonged to a cop. People say he’s a cop from Englewood, district #8. A higher rank, and that he was quickly put in a car and driven off.

After the shooting death of 12-year-old Michael Lowery, Jr., his family filed a complaint with the Office of Professional Standards, the department of the police that is supposed to investigate shootings by the police. The media and authorities have yet to even suggest that the cops might have killed Michael. But many youths from their own experience know that police brutality and murder is nothing new in this community. Every day these youths have to deal with the system’s enforcers. And recently some of them talked with the RW about this constant war being waged by the police on Black youth.

A few of them were sitting on the car. They signaled the RW reporter to come over to talk. But a short while later, police had beaten one of their friends. Mark, one of the youths, told the story: “My friend Tony was walking from the store and we seen him. And the police just turned the corner real fast. Then I seen them stop. We thought they was going to shot him. They had the shields. They had their sticks and they claim they were armed with mace, cause they claim they weren’t gonna use no kind of firepower. And the clubs, that was it. But they were dressed for a riot.”

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Hate the Police

He said they just jumped on him for no reason just started beating him up." As Mark put it, this kind of situation happens all the time, and if it keeps up, it's gonna be a "war" between Black people and the police. But, he said, this time to avoid a two-sided one and not just the very one-sided one already going on.

Mark went on to talk about his own experience, "I got beat up by a police. Right? I was talking to a woman while she was sitting in her car, you know, and I was talking to the cop, you know, and I was talking to the cop. He started beating me up. And I was like, 'That ain't right.' Then they just started beating me up and throwing me against the wall and making me hit my head on a concrete wall." When all this finished, the cops simply got in their cars and drove off.

They said, "You can go ahead now, we did what we had to do. You can go get on ahead." The descriptions of constant harassment brought to mind images of Israeli troops forcing it over Palestinian youth in the Gaza Strip and Israeli paramilitary police roughshod in a shantytown. Like a corrupt and brutal occupying army, the Chicago police have no idea what they're doing. All they do is beat up and kick people around in their homes. And as another Chicago winter approaches, it's clear that the lack of repairs in Ida B. Wells will continue to be but a small step between the people and the police. It's now been several months since thirteen repeat night and the broken glass and burned-out car from that evening are all long gone now, but the cops are still out there every day and night patrolling and harassing. And at another Chicago winter approach, it's clear that the lack of repairs in Ida B. Wells will continue to go on and on and on.

The sentiment among many was, as one youth put it, "They're not going to do a Rodney King. King on me!" One youth, Jason, mentioned a notorious case of this kind of treatment. "They put 50 police out there, to protect the store. But a lady can be getting her kids and kicking up in one of these houses and she can call the police. They can't do anything, she'll call 'em back. This whole thing just goes on and on and on." The cops simply got in their cars and drove off.

Neighborhoods like this, it's almost like, they fuck with the guys that's build up in here. Marjorie told of one had experienced she had with the police. It was when she had been fighting with her husband and the police came on the scene. "They grabbing me and they hit me on the head, the car, making me hit them. Ooh, you had a bad itch and all... They think cause they get a bad name, but you can just slap your head and you can say anything about that. And I don't think that's right. That's why I can't stand them. I don't like the police. Fuck the police."

And then people, it became clear that the spirit of the L.A. Rebellion had been alive in the streets of Chicago that night. With the incident that went down in Los Angeles with Rodney King. A lot of malice had been told throughout the country... A lot of areas within the major cities of the country had a lot of fallout behind that... When you mange so much hatred into one ball it explodes, eventually. And that thing that happened with the trials went was what I will call the covering of it. Boom, we are gonna let it roll now.

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How Revolutionary China Got Rid of Drugs

by C. Clark Kissing

In old China, vendors sold opium from small carts on the streets like ice cream. By the 1920s, China was producing 90 percent of the world's opium and importing tons of morphine and heroin. By World War 2, there were an estimated 70 million addicts in China. That's more addicts in one country than there are people in most of the countries of the world.

Yet in approximately three years, from 1949 to 1952, China completely eliminated the nightmare of drugs. There were no more addicts, no more pushers, no more opium poppies grown, and no more illegal drugs smuggled in. Can this really be true? Could this have been done in such a short time? Doesn't this go against everything we know about "human nature"? And could the methods used in China ever be used to get rid of drugs in developed capitalist countries like the United States?

Lives in the Balance

"I was 23 when I started smoking opium," said Tai Tung-mai, a resident of Shanghai who met many visiting Americans in the early 1970s. "I didn't smoke much at the beginning, but my husband had a serious addiction. It turned him into a ghost—a man who could do no work. Because he could not work, he had no money with which to buy opium. He was forced into withdrawal which his weakened body couldn't tolerate, so he died."

"When he died I suffered so much from the loss that I smoked more and more to escape my grief. So I too became an addict. I lost all sense of responsibility even toward my little son. There were many times I would even forget to feed him. He died when he was seven because I wasn't able to take care of him through a severe case of measles."

The human toll of China's drug affliction was devastating. Starving laborers tried to shot out the pains of hunger with the sweet dreams of opium and spent their scant food money on dope. Thousands of addicts died directly of starvation, while others abandoned their children or even sold their children to buy more drugs. A sympathetic Japanese visitor to Northern China in the 1920s recounted this scene:

"In Dairen, on the pier and at the railway station, were groups of coolies. The first thing that the tourist entering Manchuria saw were their half-starved figures, black with filth. I visited Hekizan-so, the coolie dormitory complex. It was shocking. Here opium facilities were openly established. Opium at this time was a monopoly for the Kwantung Civil Government and the system was said to be designed for protection against poison. At Hekizan-so it was briskly marketed. I was told the manager of the bank evidently saw nothing wrong in Transactions...."

But all oppression, including drug addiction, CAN be overthrown! Mao Tsetung led a great revolution of the Chinese people that won victory in 1949. Then, using Maoist methods, the people themselves eliminated the large-scale addiction to opium that had been a heavy weight everywhere in their country.

This year, revolutionaries all over the world are celebrating the 100th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF MAO TSETUNG—the greatest revolutionary of our time. This celebration will go into high gear in late December in time for Mao's 100th birthday on December 26.

This story of Maoist revolution ending drug addiction shows how the teachings of Mao Tsetung connect directly with the STRUGGLE FOR LIBERATION today.
stood up!" A couple months later on February 24, 1950 the government order banning opium and narcotics was signed. "No trafficking, manufacture, or sale of opium and narcotics shall be permitted, and all offenders shall be subject to stern punishment." Yet the Chinese Communist Party knew full well that quium could not be uprooted simply by declaring it illegal. Only the masses of people could deal with this problem. But to uproot a problem as deep as opium in China required two key weapons in the hands of the people: the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party and state power. Without either of these, nothing could have been accomplished.

The Chinese Communist Party approached the question by drawing clear lines of distinction between the people who were the victims and the great opium lords and foreign imperialists who were the enemy responsible for the opium trade. This was important because different contradictions could only be resolved by different methods. In dealing with contradictions among the people, the methods of education, persuasion, and mass mobilization were used. In dealing with class enemies, the armed force of state power was decisive. Yet it was only possible to practice the methods of education and persuasion among the masses throughout society because state power had been seized after twenty-five years of revolutionary warfare.

In dealing with the problem of addiction among the people, wide latitude was given to local organs of power to develop the methods and programs. But certain principles applied. First, no one was to be criminalized or socially marked because they were opium addicts. They were the victims of foreign imperialists who forced opium upon China, and should be treated as such. Their coming forward to identify themselves and seek treatment was to be hailed as a revolutionary act on their part.

On the other hand there were also time deadlines set. Long-term addicts were given six months to give up opium, and less addicted persons were given three months. During this period they were allowed to keep their personal stores of opium. It was not confiscated nor were they arrested. They were offered medical assistance, Continued on page 10
Continued from page 9 which mainly took the form of injections of magnesium sulfate to relieve muscle cramps during withdrawal, since the medical facilities at that time in China were restricted to the limit. And they were offered employment.

Clearly, it was not so easy as that. People addicted to opium just didn’t say, “Oh, I need it, I need that injection,” and rush out and do it. Most resisted identifying themselves and seeking help, a small fraction of the city’s addicts.

A Profoundly Political Problem

Just as with the successful campaign to eliminate venereal disease in China, it was found that the problem of drugs was a profoundly political problem. That is, the key to the problem was not the discovery of some wonderful new drug, or test, or vaccine. The key was the mobilization of the masses of the people to destroy the problem and take it up for definitive solution.

In Canton, for example, the official approach from drugs at home, even until the end of January 1951. In the first month, only 925 stepped forward to identify themselves and seek help, a small fraction of the city’s addicts.

Throughout the country a mass campaign had also stepped up. On June 3 “Opium Destruction Day” was announced that the drug problem had been

The statistics for one typical neighborhood in Canton tell the story. In an area of 1,700 families, twenty-one individuals from seventeen families were involved in pushing drugs. Five of these were sentenced to life imprisonment. Four went on to commit crimes on a murder and burglary scale, and one committed suicide. One was sent to re-education through labor. The statistics for one typical neighborhood in Canton tell the story. In an area of 1,700 families, twenty-one individuals from seventeen families were involved in pushing drugs. Five of these were sentenced to life imprisonment. Four went on to commit crimes on a murder and burglary scale, and one committed suicide. One was sent to re-education through labor. The statistics for one typical neighborhood in Canton tell the story. In an area of 1,700 families, twenty-one individuals from seventeen families were involved in pushing drugs. Five of these were sentenced to life imprisonment. 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What About the Pushers?

In working with the great mass of addicts, it had been the social movement and social educational work that was decisive. In the case of a majority of addicts voluntarily went through the withdrawal treatment from community and family aid and support, well before the three and six months guarantee term. Only a very few were utilized for withdrawal. Force and laws were not fundamentally the answer. It was up to the people, freed from the yoke of foreign domination, to effect their own liberation. Addicts were the victim of class enemies, not the enemy themselves—no matter whatever crimes they may have committed to feed their habit.

In dealing with drug pushers, the government adopted the same careful policy of relying primarily on education and of taking steps toward eliminating between the people and the enemy. For example, many small drug dealers lived in extreme poverty themselves and sold opium to survive. Similarly, millions of peasants lived in the countryside dependent on the grown opium as the most profitable crop they could grow on their small plots of land. These people were not the enemy, but both groups felt intimately threatened by the new government’s declared policy to end opium cultivation and sale. Many had their only wealth tied up in stocks of drugs. Would they lose everything and become beggars? Obviously, to criminalize and target them as the enemy would only drive their operations further underground and make them more difficult to squeeze.

To deal with the drug problem, government made an amazing offer. It offered to purchase from small dealers and growers all their drugs at market value. The turned-in opium was publicly destroyed. It was of course intended to condition them on getting out of the drug business. But it was also for real. No poor person who wanted to get out of the drug business needed to fear the loss of everything by doing so. They needed only to step forward and turn in their drugs for cash. Further, the government guaranteed them employment and a new start. At the same time, they too could contribute to building the new China.

On the other hand, those who resisted would be treated with harsh criminal penalties. It was definitely illegal to grow and sell drugs. People found working in the drug business needed to fear the loss of their jobs and their children. In this way, all the addicts and pushers were brought before mass public trials in stadiums and arenas before thousands of people. People whose lives and families were ruined by drugs provided the witness against them. For them justice was sure and harsh, life in prison or public execution. Still, the number of convictions was relatively small—only five or ten in the largest cities.

So all that is how China got rid of the “drug problem”: they made revolution.

Would the Same Methods Work Here?

Remember that the people of China tried all the same remedies that people talk about today. They looked for substitute drugs like cocaine. They turned to religion. They appealed to national pride. They set up neighborhood vigilante groups and tried to stop drug pushers. They appealed to the government. They appealed to international conscience. Yet only the masses, freed from the yoke of foreign domination, was the solution to the problem.

The theory and practice of Mao Tsetung is studied throughout the world because his principles and conclusions are the LATEST AND GREATEST DEVELOPMENT of the revolutionary science. WITHOUT MAOIST revolution the world cannot win victory.

WITH MAOISM a new wave of revolutionary parties is being born, and a new wave of revolutionary buildings is taking shape. It is the new wave of revolutionaries of the worldwide Revolutionary Internationalist Movement. And they need to get involved in preparing for the coming revolution.

If you don’t know about the Maoist revolution: CHECK IT OUT!

If you are already down with Maoist revolution: SPREAD THE WORD AMONG THE PEOPLE! CELEBRATE THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF MAO TSETUNG!

A Chinese media leader, "Tsai Yung-mai, in an opium den, early 1900s."
THE OPIUM WARS

How did it happen that a great country like China was almost destroyed by dope? Certainly not because of “moral weakness,” as those who try to “blame the victim” always claim. No, Opium was not even native to China. Opium, and then morphine and heroin, were pushed on the Chinese people at the point of a gun. That’s what the so-called Opium Wars were about. England waged war on China in 1839 to win the legal right to sell dope!

With the beginning of direct trade between Europe and China in the modern era, a problem arose for England. While the English were very anxious to buy porcelain, tea, and silk from China, the Chinese were not anxious to buy anything back from the English. This meant that British purchases had to be paid for in precious metals such as gold and silver. Soon China was becoming very wealthy off this trade, piling up British gold and silver.

This is what the capitalists call a “trade imbalance.” When it is in their favor they love it. But when the British started to depile their silver reserves, it drove them into a frenzy.

What the English needed was a commodity that the Chinese would not refuse to buy. Opium, grown by the English in India and Burma, proved to be that perfect commodity. The effect of opium trade was immediate. As one nineteenth-century pamphlet on the British East India Company observed: “From the opium trade the Honourable Company have derived for years an immense revenue and through it they the British Government and nation have also reaped an incalculable amount of political and financial advantage. The turn of the balance of trade between Great Britain and China in favor of the former...benefits the nation to an extent of 6 million pounds yearly without impoverishing India.”

The Chinese were aware of the dangers of opium. The smoking of opium had been introduced earlier by the Portuguese and the Dutch, and in 1729 the Chinese emperor issued an edict banning the smoking of opium. Still, the smuggling of opium went on, with imports rising from about 1,000 chests of opium a year in the 1790s to 45,000 chests in 1838—about 3,000 tons of opium a year.

In 1839 the emperor appointed an official named Lin Tse-hsu to stamp out the opium trade in Canton—the one Chinese port open to foreign ships. After trying in vain to convince the British trade representative in China to pass a law against opium smuggling, England immediately declared war on China and invaded the country. The First Opium War, which lasted from 1839 to 1842, resulted in the defeat of China, and China was forced to pay $21 million for the destroyed opium and sign a treaty at gunpoint that opened up five port cities to British ships. The next year the United States forced China to sign a treaty giving it aso-called extraterritorial domain in China. Hailed as a treatment for opium addiction, much like methadone in the U.S. today is promoted as a treatment for heroin, morphine was frequently dispensed by Western missionaries and came to be known among the people as “Jesus opium.”

Then in the twentieth century heroin, which had been developed in Germany as a new wonder drug by the Bayer chemical company, was introduced and sold in small red capsules as “anti-opium pills.” By the 1920s Europe and Japan were shipping over ten tons of heroin a year to China. In 1927 Chang Kai-shhek, the head of the Chinese nationalist government, ordered the massacre of Communist revolutionaries in Shanghai, seized power, and completely legalized opium. He was soon forced to rescind this order, but he became even more closely tied to China’s domestic drug production after the Geneva Convention of 1928 banned the international heroin trade.

In 1934 Chang Kai-shek embraced the Christian religion, announced his “New Life campaign” to improve the morals of the Chinese people, and appointed himself the Commissioner for Opium Suppression. In practice this meant suppressing all opium dealers except for those of his Kuomintang Party. For the government, monopoly control of the opium trade became a major source of revenue. At the same time, the Japanese used the narcotics trade to finance their growing occupation of China. When they captured Shanghai in 1941, Japan’s “Opium Suppression Bureau” licensed smokers, opium dens, and stores selling opium under the pretext of seeking to “cure” growing millions of addicts. But the result was $72 million a year in profits for the Japanese. Under Japanese occupation, Nanking became a city of 50,000 heroin addicts.

Even after the 1949 revolution which liberated China and finally eliminated the drug trade, the remnants of China’s drug mafia continued to operate in exile in cooperation with the U.S. CIA (see “Drug Lords, War Lords and the U.S. Military,” RW Nos. 466 and 467). For China, the “drug problem” was a problem of foreign imperialism and exploitation from beginning to end. And those who claimed to be suppressing the drug trade always turned out to be the biggest pushers. For China the only solution was revolution.
Crime Bill

Continued from page 3

annually to the crime of Blacks killing Blacks than the sum total of lynchings in the entire history of the country." He says that while the problems facing Black people in the distant past were the result of the power structure, now Black people are facing a crisis of their own making. "We are more threatened by dope than the rope," he says.

Such arguments are echoed throughout the mainstream Black press and among sections of the Black middle classes. You run into people who call the youth "a lost generation" and criticize everything about the youth—music, their clothes, their attitude. And even sections of poor neighborhoods are influenced by this constant dressing of the youth.

But Jackson's claims are blatantly wrong and dangerous. The systematic national oppression of Black people causes massive deaths annually—not just from the direct murder by Klan-like racists, but from countless ways oppression takes its blood price. Black children are twice as likely to die in the first year of life than white children. The average expected lifespan for Black people is many years less than for white people in the U.S. The poverty imposed by the system translates into worse medical care, worse diet, more industrial accidents, the explosion of the AIDS epidemic in poor communities and more. And anyone who wants to claim that "youth gangs" are the main killer of Black people, instead of the system, is simply telling a lie.

But there is a logic behind Jackson's arguments: if he can convince people that the system is not to blame for their suffering, then he can get over the argument that people need to unite with the system to solve their problems. "What faces us today is preventable," Jackson preaches. "It's within our power to change our behavior. And what is the change Jackson advocates? He demands that the youth break their "code of silence" and become informers for the authorities. Jackson claims: "This is not snitching, it is self-defense."

The system is trying to enlist sections of oppressed communities to support the war on the people. But this campaign is patronizing and people should not be suckers for this.

Who are the Real Criminals?

Chairman Bob Avakian, leader of the RCP, USA, says "Everybody's talking about crime, crime, crime, tell me WHO ARE THE CRIMINALS? It seems to me this is a very profound point of orientation and poses a very profound dividing line. Because if you do not see and fail to point out the finger first and fundamentally at THE SYSTEM as criminal, then you're never going to be able to deal correctly with some very intense and complex contradictions."

The people are the real revolutionaries; the struggle is sharpening revolutionary politics to clarify right from wrong. This is a very profound point. And the system's criminal policies are a result of a capitalist ideology that has pushed some people into desperation and fundamental at THE SYSTEM as criminal. People need to understand:

1. The people themselves are not to blame for poverty, desperation, crime, and drugs. These are caused by the working of capitalism. And these problems will only be solved when the people organize themselves to overthrow this system and move on to build a whole new society.

2. The system cares nothing about the suffering of the people or about crime. It cares only about its own stability, survival and ability to continue exploiting and oppressing the people. The goal of their "war on crime" is to put all kinds of new armed enforcers of the system on the streets to oppress communities. They want to strengthen their witch networks, their police-state computer systems and build up their prison system.

Words: When the system announces a "war on crime"—it will be waging a war on THE PEOPLE. So why should the oppressed support that in any way?

Capitalism is a system that needs and breeds poverty. And anyone who believes that inequality has disappeared in the USA should check out the difference between the crumbling prison-like public schools in any big city and the sprawling high school "campuses" of the wealthy suburbs. Wealthy kids get college advisors and poor kids get probation officers. Rich people get the Betty Ford Clinic—but when young proletarians get caught up in the pipe, this heartless system offers them homelessness, jail, prostitution, AIDS or a sudden death from the pigs.

What About Crime?

It's true there is a "dog-eat-dog" mentality to street life in the ghetto. For anyone who pushes some people into desperation and demoralization—and some turn on themselves and other oppressed people. But these conditions are a result of a capitalist system that offers the people NOTHING but suffering and exploitation. As Chairman Avakian says, to understand and deal with these very intense and complex contradictions, you have to point the finger first and fundamentally at THE SYSTEM as criminal.

When ghetto youth try to survive—in the only ways this system has made available—the system calls them "career criminals" and locks them up by the hundreds of thousands. And it uses these street hustles as an excuse to prepare invasion armies of police and create lock-down conditions in the projects. When some people who support these police crackdowns preach that oppressed people need to get into "capitalist entrepreneurship," that we say Capitalism is a dog-eat-dog, me-first system. And it is the ideology and laws of capitalism that drive "street capitalists" into competition that ends in shootings—just like big-time capitalist competition ends in world wars! After all, while the Congress is making "drive-by shootings" a federal crime, the U.S. military has been carrying out its own "crime wave of fly-by shootings" against the people of Iraq and Somalia.

What's Needed?

Some people say: "But we must do something. The lives of millions of people have become intolerable." And that is true. But if you believe that you can help solve any problems by backing the system—then you are the one living in a crack-dream! You are being played for a fool. These "get tough on crime" plans have nothing to do with "improving life in the inner city" or "saving this generation of youth."

Even the system's own mouthpieces admit that more cops and "anti-crime bills" will not reduce crime. The New York Times wrote about the mega-police bill in Congress: "The view of law-enforcement experts is that even legislation this vast is unlikely to have a significant effect on crime" because it does not deal with the underlying "causes of social disintegration."

Well, no shit! Those people who thought "Clinton might bring some change" should turn up the hard facts. Under Clinton, the system's criminal policies and directions are clearly in full effect. The rich are getting rich and in control. The poor are still on the bottom and getting poorer. No new policies or programs have materialized for the people: no jobs, no rebuilt schools, no shelters for the homeless.

The system wants to strengthen the police to prevent rebellions and development of political control on the people. Look at how they are rushing to pass laws that will disarm the oppressed people—while they keep the police and reactionaries armed to the teeth! They want to be in a better position to prevent and contain rebellions and resistance among the oppressed. In short, they want to use reactionarism to defend their system from the people: WHY SHOULD THE PEOPLE SUPPORT THAT?

The Revolution Has an Answer!

Yes, the people must do something! But no help the oppressor turns oppressed neighborhoods into prisons. And by backing the oppressor system say it has the blessing of the people themselves to lock down, jail, harass, and shoot-to-kill.

We must fight against the dog-eat-dog capitalist ideology of our oppressor that has youth fighting each other over nothing. And we must spread the revolutionary ideology of the proletariat, Marxism-Leninism-Maoism—to give the people something worth living and dying for.

With the leadership of the Revolutionary Communist Party, our sisters and brothers—especially the youth who see that the system offers them nothing—can become revolutionary fighters in the struggle to bring down this whole criminal system.

REVOLUTION IS THE HOPE OF THE HOPELESS
Everybody's talking about crime. But who are the criminals?

The REAL criminals, the BIGGEST criminals are the SUCKERS who RUN this system and their ENFORCERS...

International big-time gangsters and mass murderers—billionaires, with their politicians, their armed forces, and their forces of "law and order"

IS THERE A SOLUTION?

YES, REVOLUTION!

We know who the real criminals are... It's time to get down with people who are serious about a real all-the-way revolutionary solution.

THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST PARTY, USA

SUPPORT, JOIN, BUILD OUR VANGUARD PARTY—THE RCP

GET DOWN AND GET READY FOR REVOLUTION
The following letter about a toxic spill that happened last summer is from a reader in the San Francisco Bay Area:

A four-mile-wide cloud of sulfuric acid swept through California’s Western Contra Costa County July 30, sending an exodus of 20,000 people to local hospitals for treatment. General Chemical, the corporation responsible for the spill, started an immediate campaign to contain the damage...to its reputation, but not to the health of the people affected by their criminal negligence. Local attorneys, trying to contact injured people by standing on the neighborhood’s dangerous streetscapes with legal forms and petitions, faced criticism in the corporate press for “ambulance chasing”; no such criticism was leveled at the corporation that necessitated calling the ambulances in the first place.

Toxic Racism

It’s common knowledge that toxic industry is centered in poor and ethnic minority neighborhoods. Rich and middle-class people have the money to block plant construction with lawsuits and advertise the neighborhood’s outlay of toxic industry as a threat to their health. But the people of North Richmond, and in the other so-called “black belt” regions of the Bay Area, are attacked and then abandoned by the government.

Resident of North Richmond, California reads: Racists, Rambo-Americans—Rulers of America—It’s Gonna Fall on You!
NYPD Plans for Rebellion Control

The 1992 rebellion in Los Angeles and other powerful uprisings of the oppressed in cities across the country have rocked this system. The power structure is responding with more intense repression against the people.

In New York City, Crown Heights and Washington Heights neighborhoods have erupted in rebellion in recent years. The NYPD is reportedly working on some heavy plans to deal with any future rebellions. A 75-page book titled “Disorder Control Guidelines,” which will be distributed to all New York cops, gives directives on how the police should respond when the people rise up. This book shows that the authorities are moving to militarize the police force. New York Newsday reported that “police department resolve has hardened” and that “for the first time they are also supported by military-style equipment closer to the character of the West Bank than the West Side.” The West Bank is part of Palestine that is occupied by the Israeli military. In 1987 the Palestinian people living in the West Bank and the Gaza started a mass uprising—known as the intifada. The Israeli troops responded by shooting and arresting many people and other vicious measures like breaking the arms and hands of youth to prevent them from throwing stones.

Newsday reported on some of what is in the NYPD’s “Disorder Control Guidelines.”

• In the event of rebellion all cops on duty in a given borough will be kept on duty.
• The police will use pepper mace with enough power to stun people 10 feet away.
• Police will also use U.S. Army surplus smoke grenades, and cops will wear U.S. Army gas masks.
• Ambulances will be modified so they can be used as command posts. The police are also converting Army trucks for use as mobile headquarters.
• Patrol cars will make “lightning” raids into crowds for “rescues.”

The police will use various formations to disperse people, including single lines and two-line deep wedges with extra cops on the sides to protect against encirclement by rioters.

The police are also working toward a tighter command structure. Newsday reported that one sergeant and eight officers will be grouped into teams, several of which will make up a platoon. These will respond to affected areas as well as answer 911 calls that come in during a rebellion.

Now available

Shockwaves!
A Report from the Los Angeles Rebellion

By Michael Slate

Order from:
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Shockwaves, a collection of unique and intimate interviews with participants of the L.A. Rebellion, is now available. It is reprinted from a series run in the Revolutionary Worker from May to September 1992. Author Michael Slate is writing a new series and funds are needed to support his work. Proceed from sales of the Shockwaves collection will help you contribute by buying several copies and distributing them to friends. Michael is not a bourgeois journalist who lives in fancy hotels. Our donations are needed to cover his basic necessities: food, transportation, research, and rent. A lot of money is needed, and donations can be sent to: Reporter’s Emergency Travel Fund, RCP Publications, P.O. Box 3486, Merchandise Mart, Chicago, IL 60654. (Anonymous contributions and money orders are encouraged.)
The year 1993 marks 100 years since the birth of Mao Tsetung, the great leader and teacher of the international proletariat and oppressed masses the world over.

The Revolutionary Internationalist Movement has issued a call: "...to celebrate Mao Tsetung Centenary in a grand and unforgettable way. We must use this Centenary to wage a powerful ideological counter-offensive against the imperialists and reactionaries of the world...we must carry the truth of Mao Tsetung and spread it among millions and millions of people. In the process we can train new contingents of proletarian revolutionaries in different countries."

An important weapon in this Mao Tsetung Centenary will be the forthcoming special Mao Tsetung Centenary issue of the revolutionary internationalist journal A World to Win (#19).

The new issue will include:

TALK BY PCP CHAIRMAN GONZALO
Speech given at a meeting held in conjunction with the rectification campaign carried out in 1991 by the Communist Party of Peru (PCP). Here Comrade Gonzalo addresses questions of philosophy, China's Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, the current political situation in Peru and the world, and the rectification campaign itself.

IEC DELEGATES CONVENE SUCCESSFUL CONFERENCE
With a bold internationalist spirit and surmounting many obstacles, the International Emergency Committee to Defend the Life of Abimael Guzman (Chairman Gonzalo) successfully held its Founding Conference and forged a structure. AWTW analyzes various questions of debate within the IEC, as well as the activities and future of the worldwide campaign.

CHIANG CHING
Chiang Ching's little-told story is one of daring to go against the tide to make revolution—as a woman Communist leader and as the wife of Mao Tsetung. In a pathbreaking new survey of her remarkable life and contributions, AWTW explores the trajectory of the Chinese revolution, retracing the steps of one of its outstanding leaders.